GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1666
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
SUBSIDY TO HAJ PILGRIMS
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new Rules/Guidelines have been issued for grant of subsidy to Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred during the last three years in this regard; year-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to enhance annual expenditure on this account; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Haj pilgrims performing the pilgrimage under the aegis of Haj Committee of India are provided air transport services by Air India and Saudi Arabian Airlines.The fare to be charged from the pilgrims and the manner of meeting the remaining cost is decided with the approval of the Cabinet.

(c) The expenditure incurred during the last three years in this regard is as follows:

Year	Expenditure (in Rs. Crores)
Haj 2006 - I	290
Haj 2006 - II	367
Haj 2007	390 (provisional)

(d)&(e) An MOU is signed with Saudi Arabian Airlines for carriage of a particular number of Haj pilgrims.The amount to be paid to Saudi Arabian Airlines is decided on the basis of negotiations. Air India undertakes the Haj operations for the remaining Haj pilgrims on cost basis.The expenditure in excess of the amount paid by the pilgrims is reimbursed to Air India by the Government as subsidy.The cost of operations of air India depends upon the lease rates, fuel charges and other factors.